



ISSUE #1 - What are the biggest issues and challenges for your community to create sustainable wealth for your community?

- Healthy educated workers – training is needed (4)
- Governance Healthy educated people
- Access to natural resources (3)
- A/our Bank
- Recognition of First Nation’s governance, rights and title (4)
- Discrimination - not given the opportunities (2)
- First Nations not ready to accept wealth (mind-set is not there)
- Northern Economic Development is not sustainable- wealth goes elsewhere (1)
- Sustainable wealth is not always the same as community development
- No advisory/technical help/policy/think tank to assist First Nations economic growth (4)
Don’t have power or money, First Nations individuals have limited power.
- Barriers – Provincial & Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Acts & Policies (7)
- Stumpage rates (1)
- Poverty –short term we have to deal with it. Makes individuals desperate and often we jump to short term solutions that compromise the long term.(1)
- Don’t have access to provincial and regional plans (2)
- Limited planning - don’t have capacity or processes to gather info, make plans and move forward (1)
- Not focussing on long term - too many immediate short term issues (REACTION vs PROACTION) (6)
- Legislation designed to disable First Nations (3)
- Inability to take advantage of economies of scale because of mistrust between groups (2)
- No advisory/technical help/policy/think tank to assist First Nations economic growth (4)
- Lack of understanding by local government of First Nations interests and protocol(2)
- First Nations leaders/people are left out of meaningful development efforts in the region.
Lack of respect for First Nations (6)
- Health field - no technical analysis of need for services, etc. Lack of support (2)
- Influence of external forces

Comments:

- Don’t act on plans. It is safe to stay in the planning stage.
- Need to focus on economic growth
- Nation Building

RANKING:

1. Barriers – Provincial & Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Acts & Policies (7)
2. Not focussing on long term - too many immediate short term issues (REACTION vs PROACTION) (6)
3. FN leaders/people left out of meaningful development efforts in the region. Lack of respect for First Nations (6)

4. Healthy educated workers – training is needed (4)
5. No advisory/technical help/policy/think tank to assist FN economic growth (4)
6. Recognition of FN governance, title, rights (4)
7. Healthy educated workers – training is needed (4)

ISSUE #2 - What are the best and most promising opportunities for creating sustainable economic activities in your/First Nations community(s)?

- Forestry - logging, silviculture, value-added (6)
- Service Industries - gas station, handyman, repair (8)
- Mining - develop roads, sites, catering, ore haul (2)
- Heavy Construction
- Road Maintenance (2)
- Fishing - Value Added (4)
- Tourism (8)
- Health Services (5)
- Education (1)
- Hydro – gas, roads (4)
- Conference Centre, Hotel
- Land-leasing - commercial land (2)
- Retail Sales
- Botanical Products - Berries, plants, herbs (2)
- Youth Potential
- First Nations Culture i.e. stories (3)
- Student Accommodation
- Regional Transportation Services (2)
- Hydro/Green Energy

RANKING:

1. Service Industries - gas station, handyman, repair (8)
2. Forestry - logging, silviculture, value-added (6)
3. Health Services (5)
4. Fishing - Value Added (4)
5. Hydro – gas, roads (4)
6. First Nations Culture i.e. stories (3)

ISSUE #3 - What are the strengths/assets/favourable positions do you have that will allow you to effectively take advantage of these opportunities and turn them into sustainable business ventures?

- We are First Nations with “strong culture” with land. Sustainability idea is ours.
- World recognizes/knows they have to deal and work with First Nations
- Future work force
- Strong positive political leadership.
- If we unite we are unstoppable
- We have achievements but not satisfied where we are - Momentum is growing i.e. healthy communities
- Sustained collective movement towards rebuilding
- Understand/Accept who we are - pride in oneself and culture
- Tax Exemption
- Willingness to work with First Nations
- Learned from past mistakes. Now have more knowledge.
- We have organizations to do training and employment

ISSUE #4 - What barriers are present that would prevent you from effectively taking advantage of these economic opportunities and turn them into sustainable business ventures?

- Up front “capital” with a good business plan - joint venture (10)
- Lack of core funding for organizations who support First Nations Economic Development (7)
- Department of Indian Affairs (DIA) has rules/ hoops/ onerous processes/ regulations (12)
- Inhospitable government processes (1)
- Aboriginal funding agencies are outside this region (4)
- No “cash cows” or enough “cash cows” (2)
- Too small in our thinking (6)
- Government funding just doesn’t do it (4)
- Onerous reporting and bureaucracy (7)
- Mindset towards government funding and economic development “we need government funding” however there are other options. Money and capital is not ours.
- Dependency (2)

RANKING:

1. DIA has rules/ hoops/ onerous processes/ regulations (12)
2. Up front “capital” with a good business plan - joint venture (10)
3. Onerous reporting and bureaucracy (7)
4. Lack of core funding for organization who support FN Economic Development (7)
5. Aboriginal funding agencies are outside this region (4)
6. Government funding just doesn’t do it (4)

ISSUE #5 - How might we effectively work together to realize our common goal creating sustainable wealth for all First Nation's communities in the North?

- Work together
- Building supply for First Nations communities (co-op)
- Got to be able to talk to one another.
- Trust and respect is still not here.
- Think tank to focus on larger/broader issues.
- Look at some national structures and see if we can use them i.e. First Nations Financing Authority and First Nations Fiscal Authority
- Maximize national/global international ideas, recognize them and use them.
- Maximize public relations/media on our efforts.
- A political lobby
- Education process for our band membership.
- Get a defined business approach/style i.e. the Japanese model
- A Northern FN Government
- Insurance company and other First Nations Financial Institutions

NOTES:

- Conditions imposed by government prevents success.
- Need a common marketing board.
- An economic development organization that has chief's support, industry support and growth in the limelight
- A situation where there is \$80,000.00 for economic development and over \$1,000,000.00 for welfare. If we could turn that around and have \$1,000,000.00 for economic development.
- Funding sources easier to access for bands with capacity and those who are more affluent than those without this capacity.
- Funding doesn't go where needed
- Nation building is needed
- Gaming a source of wealth

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